

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional): 4541-003/RSW919990088US1	
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		First Named Inventor: Peyravian	
		Art Unit: 2135	Examiner: BEEMNET W. DADA

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

applicant/inventor



Signature

assignee of record of the entire interest.

See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.

(Form PTO/SB/96)

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February 22, 2006

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

*Total of _____ form(s) is/are submitted.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Peyravian et al.)
Serial No.: 09/458,922) PATENT PENDING
Filed: December 10, 1999) Examiner: Beemnet W. Dada
For: Time Stamping Method Employing User) Group Art Unit: 2135
Specified Time) Confirmation No.:9481
Docket No: 4541-003)

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February 22, 2006
Date


Kathleen Koppen

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review attached herewith. Claims 1-30 are currently pending. The Examiner has allowed claims 1-12 and 19-30, but has finally rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the patent to Levine (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,566). Anticipation under §102 requires the disclosure of each and every limitation of a claimed invention in a single piece of prior art. Rockwell Intern. Corp. v. U.S., 147 F.3d 1358, 47 U.S.P.Q.2d 1027 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Levine fails to disclose of each and every limitation of claim 13, and therefore, fails to anticipate any of claims 13-18 under §102.

Claim 13, the sole rejected independent claim, is directed to a computer-implemented method for time stamping a digital document calls. Claim 13 recites, "creating a time stamp receipt including identifying data associated with said document and a time indication ... [and] ... transmitting said time stamp receipt to an outside agency." In other words, the time stamp

receipt transmitted to the outside agency already includes both the identifying data (e.g., a hash of a document) and a time indication. For reference, claim 13 appears below in its entirety.

13. A computer-implemented method for time stamping a document comprising:
creating a time stamp receipt including identifying data associated with said document and a time indication;
transmitting said time stamp receipt to an outside agency; and
cryptographically binding at said outside agency said identifying data and said time indication.

Levine does not disclose transmitting a time stamp receipt that includes both identifying data and a time indication to an outside agency. In contrast, Levine discloses an authenticating agency that adds a time stamp to the document after the agency receives the document. The Levine patent undergirds this fact.

The authenticating agency in Levine includes two computers – a “front” or “public” machine and a “back” or “private” machine. The authenticating agency receives time-stamp requests via the public machine, which is connected to the Internet. The requests include data associated with a document to be time-stamped and signed by the authenticating agency. The private machine then downloads the data associated with the request from the public machine over a secure link, applies a digital signature to the data, and returns the signed message to the public machine for transmission to the requesting party. *Levine*, col. 3, ln. 31 – col. 4, ln. 8.

It is inescapable that the authenticating agency in Levine adds a time stamp to the data after the agency receives the data from the requesting party.

The time of the “front” computer is continuously available to any user on the Internet in a number of standard formats including NTP. Any user may request the time in any standard format as often as desired and can compare that time with UTC time information to verify the accuracy of the time-stamping performed by the front machine.

Levine, col. 3, ll. 47-53 (emphasis added).

FIG. 2 shows the server process carried out on the public machine 10 upon reception of input mail. This process is started by the operating system of the public machine whenever a message is received for time-stamping. ...When the

end of the message text is received a time-stamp is added at step 22 and stored with the text.

Levine, col. 6, ll. 9-19 (emphasis added); *see also*, col. 5, ll. 39-65. These passages make clear that whatever data is transmitted to the authenticating agency does not include a time indication. The time indication is added by the authenticating agency, and therefore necessarily cannot occur until after the document is transmitted to the authenticating agency.

Even the Examiner supports this fact. “[The] Examiner would point out that Levine teaches creating the hash code of the message and the time stamp in the private machine.” *Advisory Action*, p. 2, ll. 3-4 (emphasis added). The private machine referred to by the Examiner is, as stated above, part of the authenticating agency. Thus, if the private machine creates the time stamp as the Examiner admits, the authenticating agency must have already received the document at the public machine and the private machine without a time stamp.

Nevertheless, the Examiner stated basis for the rejection is that the authenticating agency does not require the public machine. Rather, the public machine could be any computing device connected to the Internet that time stamps a document prior to sending it to the private machine of the agency.¹ However, Levine does not support such an assertion.

Levine specifically employs the public machine to isolate the private machine from malicious attacks and other access by the general public. *Levine*, col. 7, ln. 57 – col. 8, ln. 9. Levine even discloses a private protocol between the public and private machines to ensure this isolation. *Levine*, col. 5, ll. 47-56; Figure 1. Further, Levin praises the advantages of this two-machine method.

Another advantage of the system is that a message which is submitted to the public machine by E-mail will have time-stamps and routing information added to it so that the message that is actually signed will differ from that which was submitted by the sender. The time-stamp and the routing information added to the message as it travels the Internet system are unpredictable from the point of view of the submitter. In that fashion, the message to be signed cannot be

¹ The Examiner stated this contention during the telephonic interview conducted December 20, 2005. See Applicants' Response to Final Office Action dated December 21, 2005, pg. 2 ¶2.

completely specified by the submitter which may help to foil certain types of attacks against the procedure.

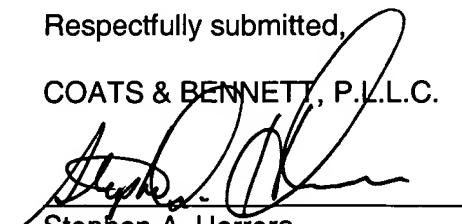
Levine, col. 8, ll. 10-19 (emphasis added). Levine simply does not support the Examiner's assertion. Levine clearly discloses that time stamps transmitted to the authenticating agency are unpredictable and cannot be trusted. Thus, Levine necessarily requires the public machine to be located at the authenticating agency for the method to operate as disclosed. Removing the public machine from the realm of the authenticating agency as proposed by the Examiner would render Levine unusable for its intended purpose.

Levine plainly situates both the public machine and the private machine within the realm of the authenticating agency. One skilled in the art armed with the Levine patent would understand this to be true. Whatever information is transmitted between these machines is therefore transmitted within the authenticating agency, and thus, cannot be transmitted to the authenticating agency. Levine does not disclose, "transmitting said time stamp receipt [that includes a time indication] to an outside agency" as recited by claim 13. Accordingly, the §102 rejection of claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-18 fail as a matter of law.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the §102 rejections fail as a matter of law. As such, Applicants request the withdrawal of the §102 rejections, and the allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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